

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 EUR-25 DRC-01 /137 W

----- 125041

R 211340Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASST CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3764

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0128

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJECT: SCHLEBUSCH COMMISSION REPORT

REF: CAPE TOWN 103

1. CONTRARY TO EARLIER INDICATIONS (REFTEL), PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAS DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO TABLE SCHLEBUSCH REPORT DURING THIS SESSION OF PARLIAMENT. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN A.L. SCHLEBUSCH, NATIONALIST MP FOR KROONSTAD, HAS TOLD US DECISION WAS TAKEN WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF LENGTHY REPORT COULD NOT BE COMPLETED AND TEXT PRINTED BEFORE PARLIAMENT RISES NEXT WEEK. HE SAID BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF CONTENT OF REPORT, AND BECAUSE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CRITICIZED LAST YEAR WHEN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE AFTER INTERIM REPORTS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT, VORSTER HAD INSISTED ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEXT OF FULL REPORT HAD TO BE COMPLETED AND AVAILABLE BEFORE IT COULD BE RELEASED.

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2. THERE SOME HERE WHO BELIEVE VORSTER MOTIVATED BY BELIEF

CERTAIN CONTROVERSIAL PORTIONS OF REPORT COULD LEAVE HIS GOVERNMENT OPEN TO CRITICISM WHICH HE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN. OTHERS, HOWEVER, SEE NO MACHIAVELIAN MANEUVERING BEHIND DECISION TO DEFER RELEASE OF REPORT, AND TAKE AT FACE VALUE EXPLANATION SCHLEBUSCH AND OTHER NATIONALIST MPS ARE GIVING.

3. IN ANY EVENT, NATIONAL PARTY (NP) ON VERY STRONG ELECTORAL FOOTING AND IN NO NEED OF SCHLEBUSCH FINDINGS AS ELECTION CAMPAIGN ISSUE. MOREOVER, SECURITY LEGISLATION THAT IT HAS INTRODUCED AND WILL PUSH THROUGH PARLIAMENT IN NEXT FEW DAYS (CAPE TOWN 0126) WILL SERVE TO SHOW VOTERS THAT NP READY AND ABLE TO TAKE FIRM MEASURES TO COUNTER ALLEGED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA. HURD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: APARTHEID, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, TRIALS, POLITICAL CRIMES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAPET00128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740219/aaaaarmx.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CAPE TOWN 103
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <04-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCHLEBUSCH COMMISSION REPORT
TAGS: PINS, SF, SCHLEBUSCH COMMISSION, (SCHLEBUSCH, A L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005